BUSINESS METHODS

vs.

POLITICAL EXPEDIENCY

SPEECH OF

R. R. GAMEY, M.P.P.

Delivered in the Ontario Legislature

February 12th, 1908

G3

THE OLD WAY AND THE NEW

Following Mr. C. N. Smith (Soo), Mr. R. R. Gamey spoke on the Address. His speech, which follows, is brim full of interesting information concerning that great country known as New Ontario, and shows in vivid contrast the slipshod way in which it was administered by the late Liberal government and the business-like manner in which the Whitney Government are conserving its vast resources to the enrichment of the people of Ontario.

MR. GAMEY: Mr. Speaker, before I take up the questions relating to the address, I desire to make just one brief reference to a remark of the hon. member for the Soo, introduced yesterday, regarding the "spoils system." You will remember with me, Sir, that he talked very eloquently and waxed warm on the dismissal of an old gentleman at Blind River. He told the House that the Conservative Party had dismissed him and that they had generally treated him very badly. The hon. member for Algoma went into this matter, and will, no doubt, deal with it in an address within the next day or two. But, Sir—I desire to be just as brief as possible—a Report was made by Dr. Bruce Smith, who is the Inspector in charge of Prisons for this Province, and his Report deals with Mr. Tansey's case. Dr. Bruce Smith says:—

DR. BRUCE SMITH'S REPORT

"This man came into the service first, (I think in 1884) as a "Guard at the Central Prison. He was discharged for drunken-"ness and sleeping on duty. When the Lock-up at Blind River "was erected in 1901 he was appointed Provincial Constable "with a Jurisdiction extending from Bruce Mines to Spanish "River at a salary of $400 a year. He acted as Lock-up Keeper "from the first at Blind River, supplied fuel, etc., and fed the "prisoners at his own expense, for which he was afterwards reim-"bursed, but was not appointed Lock-up Keeper till January 1st "1904. He applied for payment for the two years before this, "but was refused."

(Remember this was the Liberal Government,— the hon. member for the Soo did not give us anything about this.)—

"His salary as Keeper was $75.00 a year."

—From the Liberal Government! They were so anxious to keep him well that they paid him $75 a year as Lockup Keeper!

"When the Lock-up at Blind River was turned over to the Municipality, "Tansey still acted as Constable but not as Keeper. His drinking habits "led to his final dismissal, and he went to Kenora where he was arrested in "May or June, 1907, for drunkenness, was too ill to be cared for in the "Gaol and was placed in the Hospital there."

On the recommendation of Dr. Bruce Smith, Inspector, the money authorized by the Government was paid to Mr. John Muncaster who had supplied the family with groceries and kept them from starving for some months. If it had been paid to Tansey it would have gone in drink and

have done the family no good whatever. Mrs. Tansey wished Mr. Muncaster to be paid the money (applause) and to supply the family with provisions rather than that the cheque should go directly to her husband.

NO POLITICS IN REPORT

Mr. Bruce Smith, the Inspector, who, every person knows, was the Inspector under the Liberal Government, cannot be accused of a desire to favor the political party now in power. He investigated the matter on the ground himself. As the result of investigation we learn that Mrs. Tansey requested him to pay the money to Mr. Muncaster, and then we have the cheap politics, the cheapest of cheap politics, when the great member from the Soo stands up and reads his letter as a reflection on the Conservative Government; and I thought at the time of the difference between him and the hon. member for Monck, of the difference between his speech in the afternoon and this clap-trap from the hon. member for the Soo. We have, Sir, in the hon. member for Monck a man standing prominently in this Province as a man of some capacity at least, and of some experience in Government. And what does he say? I suppose we have never before had such an exhibition in this Province as we witnessed yesterday afternoon: a leading member of the Opposition unable to criticize this Government, not desiring, indeed, to criticize, but coming forward in the friendliest manner and voluntarily advising this Government. I do not need, Sir, to remind you of the standing of that hon. gentleman in this House and in this Province, and I say, Sir, that it is the greatest possible testimonial to this Government to find that such a man was unable or unwilling to criticize this Government.

The Liberals and the Settler

How the Pine and Minerals were Taken from the Pioneers of the North

Now, Sir, I shall take time to criticize some things the hon. member from the Soo said. He started out by complaining that this Government "stole their clothes." I presume he means to refer to the bill which the hon. Minister of Lands, Forests and Mines introduced to this House, the bill which gives to the settler the mineral under certain conditions. I presume he refers to this Bill when he said we had "stolen their clothes." Now, Sir, what are the facts? Go back over the history of this Province just a little, and what do we find? We find that in the early days of this Province the settler had the timber and the minerals. Who took it from the settler? Why, the Liberal Government took it from him. I don't know, Sir, whether this hon. gentleman has read anything of the history of this country politically. If he has, he manages to hide the fact very successfully.

FACTS OF THE MATTER

But, getting down to facts. We find that in 1891 the Liberal Government of that day passed legislation in this House which took the minerals from the settlers—that was not the kind of suit of clothes we stole, was it? I suppose the hon. gentleman is ready now to repudiate the Liberalism of the past; don't want anything to do with it. In another sentence he said that the Hon. Mr. Arthur Sturgis Hardy and the Liberal leaders were *the* great men of the Province of Ontario. Then, Sir, it would appear that he, to some extent, approved of the actions of those gentlemen in the past, and we find that in 1880 the Liberal Government amended the Free Grants Act against the settlers, and took the pine away from the settlers; and, let me say, that from 1891 to 1905, when the Conservative Party came in, it was not a question of whether the settlers would not get the timber or the minerals, but it was a question as to whether the settler would get anything at all or not. I tell you, Sir, the hon. gentleman knows only too well that all through that north country settlers were crying out against the regulations of that day, and that disputes were piling up at the Parliament Buildings until, when the present Hon. Minister of Lands, Forests and Mines came into the Government of this Province, hundreds of disputes lay there unsettled. It would take one of the most capable men in Canada to have cleared up those disputes in the short time we have been in the Government of this country.

SETTLERS HAD NO RIGHTS

We found when we came in thousands of settlers in the North country who had been permitted by the late Government to settle here and there all through the country as squatters. The Liberal Government gave them no rights; they had not even a title to the lands of any kind. Where was the hon. member for the Soo in those days? Pleading for the settlers? Where were the Liberal leaders who are to-day so anxious that the settler should get the pine and the minerals? Why, they were practically robbing the settler, and letting the disputes pile up by the hundred until the people turned them out of office. More has been done by this Government in thrashing out titles, settling disputes, putting the men in that country in possession of their rights as soon as it could be done, in getting matters ready for the legislation which has just been introduced; more has been done in the last two years in this and other ways than the Liberals have ever done during all their administration. **Talk about stealing their clothes!** Why, Sir, what nonsense! Who would go back and steal that suit of clothes they wore in 1905 when they were snowed under? Who would pick up a suit of clothes such as the one the Liberal party lost in 1905? **Why, Sir, I venture to say there is not an inmate of the Central Prison who would not be ashamed to be caught with that suit of clothes on.** (Applause.)

The Manitoulin Railway

How the Conservatives Found the Road, and What They Have Done in the Matter

Well, now, the hon. member for the Soo went on to say, "What have the Government done towards building the Manitoulin Railway?" Let me say just a word in regard to that. When the Conservative Party came into power, what did they find? We found a company headed by our friend, Mr. Clergue, from the hon. gentleman's own constituency, the man he boasts so much about, and let me say a man I am proud of so far as the past history of the Province is concerned, had a charter. By virtue of that charter he had gone on and surveyed the line, and acquired a good deal of information in regard to the country. The Government of the past days had the benefit of this information, and had given him a grant of 7,400 acres per mile, and he had then left it. When the Liberals left office in this Province there was not a single acre of land nor a single dollar standing to the credit of the Manitoulin and North Shore Railway. When the Conservative Party came in the matter was brought to the attention of the present Government, and a more sympathetic hearing could not have been given any person.

GONE FURTHER THAN THE LIBERALS

A Government could not be more sympathetic toward that proposal than the present Government. The old grant of 7,400 acres per mile was revived, and an additional cash bonus of $5,000 per mile was offered to Mr. Clergue or anyone else who would build the road. Though they have not built the road, they have gone further than any Liberal Government pretended to go in the past toward the building of the Manitoulin and North Shore Railway. And, Sir, I go further and say, I believe we have the sympathy of the Government to-day, and that **if the road be not built by the present owners of the franchise some other way will be devised whereby the railway will be built.** But, at any rate, I say it does not become the hon. member for the Soo, or anybody else, to say anything reflecting on the present Government as to that. This Government has done everything we could expect them to do in reason toward the building of that railway.

PREMIERS, HONEST AND OTHERWISE

Now Sir, another point. The hon. gentleman said that we are making a good deal of the fact that our present Premier is honest. And, Sir, it is admitted on every side that he is honest. However, the hon. gentle-

man went so far as to say that all Premiers of this Province have been honest. Now, Sir, I am not going to say a single word about any particular Premier's honesty, or anything of the kind, but, sir, is it political honesty to keep a constituency for nearly two years without a representative in this House? Is that the kind of honesty we want? That is the kind we had prior to 1905. Was it political honesty to hold a sitting of this House earlier than usual to head off an election trial, for fear a Cabinet Minister might be unseated? That is the kind of honesty they seem to revel in. That is the kind we had prior to 1905. I don't know, Sir, that we would ever get that kind again from a Liberal Government. I have a great admiration for the present leader of the Opposition. I am confident that he would not put up with that kind of thing, should he ever come into power. Perhaps the hon. gentleman from the Soo thinks these things are not so bad after all, when he remembers the Minnie M. incident at the Soo. Perhaps that is the kind of political honesty he enjoys.

THE GREAT ALEXANDER

Then he went on to tell us that they had a Great Alexander in their camp, and told us at length what the Great Alexander would do when he came into power. Let me remind the hon. gentlemen from the Soo that when the Great Alexander comes into power there will be no Smith to back him up. He will be down and out before that time. There will be other bright and enterprising men on the Conservative side of politics who will have done great things for the Soo time and time again before the Great Alexander comes into power.

Now, Sir, after about thirty years or more of Liberal Government, the Conservatives eventually came into power, and I suppose you will remember with me, that the Conservatives themselves were just a little in doubt as to how their leaders would make good. We were just a little anxious as to what the Cabinet might do. It is a long time, thirty years, to be in opposition, and the Liberals had told us we could not govern this country. Their newspapers had said so. Well, Sir, we have had three years of Conservative Government. I say this, that **I believe every independent man in the Province of Ontario to-day will agree with me that the Conservative Party have made good to a greater extent than even their most hopeful friends anticipated.** You know, Sir, that after all the Government of this country is not just a question of gathering in a few dollars; it is not just a question of spending a few dollars. There are big responsibilities. They have to anticipate the growth of this country. They have to be ready to produce constructive legislation, and with it all they have to be honest, in their business management—(applause)—and they have to be progressive. Now, the question before us is this:

BUSINESS MAN AND MANAGEMENT

With the address from the Throne foreshadowing certain things to be done this session, have the Conservative Government anticipated the growth of the country, have they during the last three years given us constructive legislation, have they given us reasonable, honest business management? That is the question. The hon. member for the Soo says we have not done anything for the north country. "Absolutely nothing," were the two words he used. Why, Sir, let me remind this House that one of the first things this Government did on coming into control was to select from the north country one of the most capable business men in that north country—a man with great experience in connection with mines and timber, and the general business of the north country. That man was put in charge of the Department that has to do with the north country. Did the Liberals ever do that when they were in the Government of this country? No. Then if we didn't do anything else we did a good thing for the north country when we put the Hon. Mr. Cochrane in charge of that Department. I say, Sir, that the Conservatives did more in that one act than the Liberals had ever done in years to develop and straighten out matters in the north country. Is it not only natural that a man who has lived his life among the timber and minerals of that north country should understand more of the working out of the regulations and more of the needs of that country than a tanner in the County of York ought to know? It stands to reason he should. Nothing particular to his credit if he did know. But, Sir, in putting such a man in charge we have done something, and something of a practical nature, and the results are showing every day.

Water Powers of the North

Liberals Gave them Away—Conservatives Dispose of Them to the Best Advantage

Now, Sir, take the question of the Power Bill alone. That does not, perhaps, affect the north country more than anywhere else, but it is a question that affects the whole of the Province. Suppose the Liberal Party had taken some means or some manner of protection for the water powers of the north country fifteen years ago, what would have been the condition there to-day compared with what it is? Here is what happened to our water powers in the north country, and, I say, Sir, the honorable gentleman did not say a word about it. A great deal of time is taken up by talking about the Niagara water power. What happened to be the water powers of the north country during the Liberal administration?

Practically every water power of any value was given away by the Liberal Party. Was that in the best interests of the country? Was that political honesty? Are those the kind of clothes they like to wear? There was nothing said by the hon. member for the Soo about stealing their clothes in that matter. **Whenever a water power is disposed of in future there will be such regulations and such control by the Power Commission appointed under this Government that if there is any surplus power, we shall know exactly what that can be sold at,** and if a man wants to go in and put up a factory of any kind—and the hon. gentlemen dwelt very vividly on the possibilities of such establishments in the future, and made a very dramatic picture of our manufacturing possibilities—he will have every opportunity to do so, on a reasonable and proper basis. Why did not the Liberals think of that years ago and keep some control over the water powers of that country, so that if anyone came along enquiring as to the water powers there they would be able to get information, and to acquire such water power at a price fixed by a commission or by a Government at some particular time? They did not think of that then, but the Conservative Government has done it, and put a policy into effect. Then they say we have done nothing for the north country. Why, Sir, **every single horse power in that country will in the future be subject to the Commission appointed by this Government and the rates will be fixed as the Commission thinks it wise to fix those rates.** So that, Sir, it is evident we have done something for the water powers of that country, and the hon. gentleman took care not to refer to that at all.

New Ontario's Pulp Timber

Liberals Gave Away Fifteen Thousand Square Miles of it—Conservatives Sell it by Public Tender

Then he goes on to tell us that pulp timber in this country should be manufactured into paper here. Well, Sir, I have no word to say against that. We are manufacturing the wood into pulp to-day. The pulp which is being exported to-day is manufactured by the men who received the concessions or who received our timber from the Liberal Government. Did the Liberal Government ask those men who received these concessions for nothing from this Province—did they ask those men to manufacture their pulp into paper in this country? No. I suppose the Liberals of that day were not so thoughtful as the hon. gentleman from the Soo, they were not so wise in their day and generation. Just think of fifteen or sixteen thousand square miles of the finest spruce timber in this country

given away during the time they were in power. And in all that there was not a single word inserted in those bargains asking those who received such rich concessions to manufacture their pulp into paper in this Province. If the Liberal Government of that day had anticipated the growth and the conditions of that north country as they should have done, they would have asked those men to manufacture the pulp into paper in this Province. What are the Conservative Government doing in that way? Thanks to the electors of the Province of Ontario, they still have pulp timber to dispose of, and, I say, Sir, that if the Liberal Government had stayed in power for a very short time longer, we would have had no timber or minerals at all. At the rate they were going it would have taken only one or two Governments to dispose of every acre of spruce timber in the Province in that manner. Did they ask for any provision looking to the erection of paper mills? Not at all; the idea of erecting paper mills to manufacture that pulp into paper in Ontario was never considered by the Liberals. The Conservative Government, however, decided to sell some of that pulp since they came into power. What have they done? **The Conservative Government have done exactly what the Liberal Party failed to do. They said to those receiving concessions from the present Government: "You must manufacture the pulp into paper in this Province."** Did we steal the hon. gentleman's clothes when we did that a year or two ago? I should say not.

MONTREAL RIVER CASE

And that is not all we have done with the spruce timber. Let me compare the method of disposing of that spruce timber under Liberal administration and under Conservative administration, and then, Sir, we shall see which practice the people of this Province like best. When the Liberals were in power what did they do with the spruce timber? A few individuals, friends of the Government, came to the Government of that day and said, "We would like to get the spruce timber on a certain river—five or six miles back from this river—and if you will give us the timber and water power for nothing, we will erect a mill and manufacture the timber into pulp, and we will give you a few cents on the cord dues when we cut the wood." Let me give you an illustration. A certain number of gentlemen in Toronto decided that they would like to have the spruce timber on the Montreal River—one of the best areas we have. Just before the late Liberal Government went out of power these gentlemen came to that Government and that Liberal Government gave them the right to all the spruce timber on the Montreal River for which they were to pay so many cents per cord for dues as they cut the wood, and were to erect a mill. Did they intend to build that mill or to manufacture that wood into pulp? Of course not. They were not men who had the slightest idea of doing that sort of thing, nor had they anything to do with that business. This

will be realized when I give you the names of the gentlemen interested. One of these gentlemen was Mr. E. F. B. Johnston, a prominent lawyer in the city of Toronto. You may have heard of him, Sir. If you have not, I have. (Laughter.)

IN THE TRUE LIBERAL WAY

He was one of the gentlemen who received this grant from the Liberal Government just before it went out of power. And the gentlemen who received that concession went out to the capitalists and said, "We have a splendid bargain from the Province of Ontario, and we will sell that bargain for several hundred thousand dollars." And I say, Sir, that they came nearly making the sale. I understand they had some substantial offers amounting to several hundred thousand dollars, but owing to some disagreement among themselves the sale did not go through. In the case of the Montreal River berth, the Conservative Party said at the time: "Do not give away that timber on the Montreal River to these men but put it up for sale by public tender. Let us see what the men who desire it will be willing to give for the timber." That is what this Party said to the deal when in Opposition. Now, Sir, when the present Government came into power, what did they find? They found that these gentlemen had not erected a mill—they never intended to—and had, in fact, done nothing beyond offering it for a large sum of money, and they could have sold it had they been willing to accept a reasonable price.

WHAT CONSERVATIVES DID

The Conservative Government, in view of all this, said, "We will take back this grant from you." Did they then turn round and give it to the friends of the Conservative Party? Or did they put it up and sell it by public tender? Yes, they did, and fulfilled their promise to the people. **They put it up it and sold it at public auction, and the result was that a bonus of three hundred thousand dollars in cash came into the Treasury of this Province.** (Applause.) Does it pay to have the Conservative Party in power, or does it not? Three hundred thousand dollars on one single deal, and the men who purchased that property are paying more dues under the Conservative Government than was paid under the Liberal Government, and are manufacturing the pulp in the Province of Ontario, and are doing just as much in every respect as was agreed to do with the Liberal Government. So, Sir, you see that there is a difference in the method of selling spruce timber to-day, and the difference is in favor of the Conservative Party. That is where the money comes from that we are pouring out to the schools to-day. That is how we can give the North country more money than ever before for its roads, its schools, and its

enterprises of every kind. And, Sir, that is not all. We have established for the future that the system of selling spruce timber shall be by public auction, and even if the Great Alexander ever came into power, he would know that no Government, Liberal or Conservative, will dare to give away the spruce timber of the Province, as the late Government gave it away—to the extent of fifteen or sixteen thousand square miles. I say, Sir, that one act alone is worth more to the Province of Ontario than the Liberals ever did in many years of power. Why, Sir, if you go back over the fifteen or sixteen thousand square miles of timber berths that the late Liberal Government gave away—I don't pretend to tell you how much it was worth ten years ago or so—but it was worth whatever it was worth, and, I say again, Sir, that no friend of the Government should have been given spruce timber unless he was prepared to pay the market value, whatever that might be.

New Ontario's Pine Forests

Under Business Management Timber Limits Sold for Double Liberals' Record Price

And then the hon. gentleman tells us that in the matter of the pine timber we are not doing the right thing under this Government, and that we are not getting as much money out of the pine timber as we could, and he intimated and hinted that there was some limit known as the Mettagama limit which was concerned, but he did not know the particulars, and he would not make a charge, and, at the same time he insinuated and intimated very clearly that there might be something wrong because the boundaries of that land had been settled—that the Hon. Minister of Lands and Mines must have done wrong. Now, Sir, what are the facts with regard to that limit? It is just one illustration as to the methods of the Liberal Government when in power. Some years ago there were some limits with burnt timber to be sold up the Spanish River, and it was advertised for sale either by the thousand or en bloc. I find amongst some data received from the Department of Lands that Messrs. McNeil and McLeod were the highest bidders, and that they paid $20,150 in cash for that burnt timber, and they were told at the time, according to the corespondence, that their timber was on one side of the River; that there were no lines run around that timber, no proper marks were drawn around that timber. **There was no way in which this Government could say exactly where the men should stop, or how far they should go in cutting that timber.**

MILLIONS OF FEET FOR $20,150

Is that the right way to sell timber? Wouldn't I like to buy timber where I could cut as far as I like and no lines to stop me? That is the way these people did. They cut millions of feet of timber—about sixteen million feet—and they paid $20,150 and the regulation dues of $1.25 a thousand, and then they thought they would sell it. And they did sell it to the Georgian Bay Lumber Company. Did they cut any timber? They did not. So we have about sixteen million feet of timber cut and only $20,150 paid. Then the Georgian Bay Company decided they would re-sell it, and when the purchasers came to ask for a transfer of title from the present Minister of Lands and Mines, who is administering his Department, and who sees that every dollar due is received by this Province, he said, "You have no lines laid down, and you appear to have a large amount of timber, and you appear to have cut a large amount of timber, and you only paid about $20,000. We will not transfer this timber; the late Government did not properly protect this timber, and unless you pay something more for this timber, you can't get it; and when you do get it you will get it subject to the proper lines being laid down; and you will get it subject to proper plans being drawn, so that you cannot go cutting timber all around; and you will get it subject to a ten years' lease, so that ten years from to-day you must get off; and you will also be subject to a ground rent of three dollars per mile."

GAVE UP $50,000 MORE

And the result was that the present Minister of Lands and Mines made that company pay $50,000 in cash for the timber received from the late Government, for which they pretended to have paid value, and for which the late Government pretended to have received value, and this Government convinced these people that they should pay, and did pay, $50,000 before they could get the timber. The audacity of the hon. gentleman to refer to that kind of deal! He praises the Liberal Government and says we steal their clothes. **I wish I could get a suit of clothes like that one which the company stole from the late Government.** But they did not steal it from the Government; the Government connived at it. There would have been a loss of $50,000 to the Province. The Province should have got it then, and would have got it had the Liberal Government been watching the interests of the Province. But to-day the Province of Ontario is $50,000 better off owing to the vigilance of the Hon. Minister of Lands, Forests and Mines. I don't think the hon. gentleman wants to hear any more about that kind of deal, and I advise him next time when referring to this deal just to give the bare facts—and only the bare facts we want. That is the kind of business arrangement we want in this country.

SHOULD BE SOLD BY THOUSAND FEET

That, Sir, is not all in regard to the business management of this Province for four years. When we were in Opposition, we told the country that the timber was being sold in too large lots. The last sale of timber made in this Province by the Liberals was the best sale they ever made, and that was because it was put up in smaller holdings, and owing to the competition large prices were realized. But that is a wrong way of selling timber. It should be sold by the thousand feet, and that is the way the Conservative Government has been trying to sell. Last year only a small quantity of pine was sold. It was put up by advertising, and we asked people in the timber business what they would pay for that timber. The Conservative Party realized $10.52 per thousand for standing pine timber and $2.00 for additional dues when the timber is cut, or $12.52 per thousand feet. Did the Liberals ever get such a price as that for timber? Did anybody ever get such a price? Why should any member of this House say we are not getting the value of our pine timber? Why, Sir, just figure out that $12.52 per thousand on some of the lands in those townships. It means that the Conservative Party realized $60,000 per square mile for some of that standing timber, and let me remind you again that the best prices ever realized by the Liberals were at the last sale, being $32,000 per mile on a couple of square miles, and then it went all over the Province as a record price for timber.

DOUBLE LIBERAL BEST PRICE

And yet, Sir, a few years after the Conservative Party came into power they can sell the timber for double the highest price ever raised by the Liberals! Are our leaders making good, or do we want to go back to the record price of pine timber sales in the past? Do we want timber sold as in the case of the Mettagama limit deal or as it was sold in several smaller deals? I could take up the Hunter deal, but I don't want to do it. **Just before going out of power the late Liberal administration practically gave away 30 square miles of the finest pine timber in the world, on what was really a fictitious claim.** When did this happen? In the years 1902 and 1903. Are these years at all significant? I should think so. Who got this timber? Is there any significance in it when I mention the name of Mr. E. F. B. Johnston? His name figures in connection with thousands of dollars worth of timber owned by the people of Ontario, that should never have passed to Mr. E. F. B. Johnston or anyone else, and I say, Sir, it is to the credit of Sir Oliver Lowat that every time that Hunter claim came before him he turned it down; there was nothing doing every time until Mr. E. F. B. Johnston came into the deal in 1902 and 1903, and then the Liberal Party were in such a position that they would have allowed pretty nearly everything, and then the money came into the pockets of Mr. E. F. B. Johnston and his friends. I wonder if the hon.

gentleman likes that kind of business management? He did not say a word about it. He would not take the House into his confidence on a deal of that kind.

NO TIME LIMIT ON SALES

I could go on telling you about other deals, where timber was sold and no date set as to when the timber was to be cut. One of the difficulties that faced the Department of Lands and Mines in the north country is, that no time limit has been placed in connection with sales made for years past by the Liberal Party. Why should they make sales that carry the privilege of cutting timber forever and ever? The men who come forward to-day and talk of re-foresting are the men who in the past gave away the pine timber without a single condition as to when it was to be cut. The Conservatives have the difficulty of dealing with these men to-day, all because of the lack of foresight, because of the lack of common business sense displayed by their predecessors. As to the Great Alexander, I can say this much: I think he would know better than that, even if he doesn't know as much as the hon. gentleman from the Soo thinks he does. But since those days the settlers in the north country have intimated plainly that that kind of sale will not be tolerated again. And that is not all. After the lumber had been cut the limit could be resold again and again as time went on, by private holders.

SETTLERS WILL GET ALL

What the Hon. Minister of Lands and Mines is doing to-day will permit this Government to arrange matters, so that where the land is fit for agricultural purposes, and is found to be so after inspection, what will happen? This will happen, that the settler will get all his timber and all of his mineral and all of the land, and there will be no difficulty such as we are now face to face with. When the Great Alexander comes into the Government, if he ever does, he will not have to face the difficulty that the Conservative Government has to face in settling with the settlers in that north country. The problem will be all cleared up. Proper business management will take care of the land under the gentleman in charge to-day, and it has cleared away the doubtful titles, so that this year the hon. gentleman was able to bring in a bill of this kind. The hon. member from the Soo wondered why the bill was not brought in last year. Well, Sir, the Government is moving along this line in a judicious manner, clearing up every step of the way so that when it does come it counts as one of the greatest benefits to the country.

The Temiskaming Railway

Liberals Handed Out Minerals Along Route to the Commissioners and Friends of the Government

The hon. gentleman from the Soo took a great deal of credit to the Liberal Party for building the Temiskaming & Northern Ontario Railway into the north country. They deserve some credit, it is true, and the Conservative Party give them credit wherever it is due to-day. As a matter of fact, so little credit is due to the Liberals of this country, that I am fairly boiling over with anxiety to give them whatever credit can honestly be said to be due them in connection with that north country for whatever they did. Some credit is due them for startng that railway. But, Sir, when the Conservative Government came into power, what did we find? We found a railway paid for by Government money, that is to say, by the people's money. This Government decided that the minerals under the 99-foot right of way of the road in that country belonged to the Province of Ontario. Did they hand it out to the friends of the Government or to the Commissioners who were managing the railway under the Government? Why that insinuation? Did the Liberals hand the minerals out to the friends of the Liberal Government or to the Commissioners who were managing the road? Why certainly they did. **Any mining claims that showed up were taken up and owned and sold again at fabulous prices by the very gentlemen who were running the railway under the Liberal Government.** Isn't that a nice thing to say? As to the Commission that is running the railway to-day under the Conservative Administration have they acquired any rich mining lands? Have they lent themselves and their time—paid for by the Province of Ontario—to the acquiring of the Government lands? No, they have not. They are men above that kind of thing, and that, Sir, is **where the political honesty of the Premier of the Province comes in. He says there shall be no grafting of public lands, whether pine or mineral.** You cannot say that of the Liberal Government. Their Railway Commissioners did acquire mineral lands, their Commissioners did sell them for money, and made large sums on account of sitting close to the Government of the day, and in that way having an advantage over the public.

MORE STUBBORN FACTS

Think of the facts. Mr. O'Brien was chairman of the Railway Commission under the Liberal Government, and Mr. O'Brien and his associates took valuable lands, and there are prospectors who say that Mr. O'Brien and his associates received those lands by means of affidavits and

by various means which were unfair. They got the deeds just a day or two before the general elections of 1905, just so as to make sure they got the deeds before we came into power. Then later on, certain other parties presented affidavits and evidence to show that certain of those lands, at least, had been obtained in a questionable manner. An action was commenced to recover, and Mr. O'Brien and his associates were glad to give up 25 per cent. perpetual royalty on the output of those lands to terminate the action. **Would they have done so had there been no fraud of some kind or other in connection with it? I should say not. The result, at any rate, was that the Government of Ontario received some $200,000 from Mr. O'Brien in 1907 alone as their portion of the output of that particular property.** So that on that account alone it pays to have the Conservative Party in Government. Would you like to go back to the old ways? I tell you, Sir, if the farmers once catch on to that the Great Alexander will have a hard time of it.

PROVINCE $200,000 AHEAD

The minerals under the right of way of the Temiskaming and Northern Railway, 99 feet wide, belong to the people of Ontario. What are we to do with it? Why, put it up for sale by public tender and dispose of it in the same way we dispose of all public resources of the Province of Ontario. That is what the Conservative Party try to do. In fulfilling their pledge to the people in this regard they receive about $200,000 for the mineral under this same 99 feet of railway. So that the country is to-day about $200,000 cash ahead by reason of the Conservative Party management of the mineral resources on the Government railway across Government land. Nor is that all. The royalty of 25 per cent. on the O'Brien deal will be coming in for years to come, and for years to come we will have a handsome sum of money, all because of the business character of the Conservative Government. Someone says: "The Liberals would have done the same thing." Nothing of the kind. They never thought of it. I suppose the Liberals might do it in the future, if they got the chance, they might imitate us in many ways in the future. Then, Sir, I say that the Conservative Party deserve credit when they do things so profitable to the people of Ontario, and we are fair in comparing them with the record of the Liberals along the same line.

Value Goes to Public Fund

Conservative Government Realized over a Million Dollars from the Sale of Cobalt Lake alone

We could go on and show what the Conservatives have done to increase the revenues in many ways. There was the Cobalt Lake property which they sold, and in connection with this the hon. gentleman from the Soo hinted at about $130,000 that was going to be given to someone, but he fell back in his seat quick when someone asked would he like to make a charge. The Conservative Government realized $1,085,000 in cash from that sale, and never before did the Government of this country, during all the thirty years and more of Liberal rule, attempt to sell a square foot of lake by public tender.

Now, then, I would just refer to the sale of Kerr Lake. What did the Conservative Government do about that? Did they give that to some friend of the Government or to some friend of the Railway Commissioners or to some of the grafters that are always hanging around? There are no doubt, Conservatives who would like to get these things as well as Liberals. But when we have an honest Premier, politically honest, the grafting cannot be done, and that is what political honesty means. And that is why the confidence of the people of Ontario to-day rests where it does. The present leader of the Government to-day is politically honest, and political honesty means that there is no grafting. **Let the value of the timber and the minerals go to the public fund, and let us see what the purchaser will pay for it.** That is the way the Conservative Government has tried to do in fulfillment of its pledge to the people. Take, for instance, the first tender amounting to $50,000 on Kerr Lake. Did the Hon. Minister of Lands and Mines say: "This is a snap, and we will hand it right out. We are glad to let some of our friends get a bargain from the Government?" No, but that sentence is very significant of some of the deals when the Liberals were in power. I can remember the time when Liberals were getting similar deals through for sums beside which $50,000 would be good.

NO BARGAINS FOR FRIENDS NOW

But the present Minister of Lands and Mines said, "No, we will put this lake up a second time for public tender," and the consequence was that we received for that concession $178,000 in cash and 10 per cent. royalty for all time to come. Did you ever hear of a Liberal Government doing anything like that in the history of this Province? We have had millions of dollars' worth of mineral lands pass from the possession of this Prov-

ince in the past, and never until the Conservative Party came into power have we heard of such value being received for them. I could go on and tell you of thousands of dollars which have been received entirely through the business management of the present Minister of Lands and Mines. I don't want to take up your time, but only to show that the business management of the Conservative leaders is paying the Province to-day. And then, in the face of all th the hon. member from the Soo told you that we had done nothing for the North country! He forgot that we gave the mining policy to the North country which is there to-day.

CONSERVATIVE GOVERNMENT'S MINING POLICY

Before we came into power what were the conditions of the past with regard to this mining policy? During all the history of this Province, if you started out to prospect in the North country and discovered minerals, you had to make your application in the city of Toronto. Everyone who knows anything of the management of this Province and of the vast North country, knows well that you ought not to have to send your application from Rat Portage or Kenora or Port Arthur or Temagami to the city of Toronto when you want to possess yourself of a piece of land. It is true that before the Liberal Party went out of power they amended that to some extent, and made it possible to file your application at some place in the North Country. Even then it was found that when the application was filed they could not act on it. The prospector must come to Toronto. I could show you that there were as many regulations in force as there were different sections of mining country. There was no uniformity, there was no protection for the prospector and little protection for applicants. Now, Sir, what did the present Government do? This is what they did, and there the present Minister of Lands and Mines shows his knowledge of the North country. The present Government divided the North country into sections. It created a record office in every one of these sections. It appointed a Recorder, who is there in the office to receive the applications for that particular section of the country. The new mining law is the same all over the country, and makes the method of acquiring mining claims the same all over the country. It protects the prospector. If he pays $5.00, the fee to prospect, he can go out into the country, and before going he can get from the record office an accurate map showing all applications on record for that particular mining section. If, for instance, I want to prospect in the Township of James, I can get from the recorder a map showing every single lot applied for in that district. I can have up-to-date information under the new mining law.

UNDER THE OLD LAW

What was the condition under the old mining law? I would have to write to the city of Toronto, getting my information from Toronto show-

ing what particular lots were taken. It would take weeks to get it. In the other case, I step into the office on the spot, and in half an hour have the information I want, and I start out to prospect. The result is that when I make a discovery I have so many days to get down to the record office (not to Toronto). I don't have to send my application to any person. I simply say to the Recorder, "Show me what lots are taken in that Township," and he has a map showing just what lots are open for application, and the result is that I know at once whether the particular lot I am after it is taken up before he knows what particular lot I want. If it is not taken, I make out my application for the lot, hand it to the Recorder and I am recorded for that lot immediately. Under the old conditions you never knew whether the lots were taken or not; you did not know whether someone here in Toronto had taken up your discovery. I do not wish to insinuate anything against the officials here, but **I could show you cases where men applied for certain lots only to get an answer four or five weeks later that some one in Toronto owned that lot.** That was no way to encourage prospecting. That is now done away with entirely. You get your information at first hand, right at the recording office, and you know at once whether there is an opportunity to do anything on that particular lot or not.

NO MONEY TO PAY

Under the new conditions, too, you have a reasonable amount of w to do. The Government decided that the proper kind of development w work that particular claim and they coupled with the discovery a certain amount of work, and under the law to-day we have no money to pay of any account. The Government knew well that the average prospector has less money than days' work, and so, the result is that he pays for his purchase in development work. Not only that, but wherever you go in the Province of Ontario to-day you have the same right. The law is the same, and the method of acquiring mineral is exactly the same. In case of dispute there is no political influence. The dispute is not settled by the head of the Department of Mines. Under the old law every dispute in the Province of Ontario had to be brought down and settled by the Department of Mines. Do you mean to tell me that there would be no political influence? Why, Sir, if we had done nothing else, we have given a mining law which removes disputes of all kinds from the control of the Government of the day, whoever they may be. I say, Sir, that we have done a wonderful thing for the development of the North country in that one act alone.

BONUS FOR REFINING METALS

Then the Government said further: "We will give a bonus for the refining of metals. Any company that wants to do business in the Prov-

ince of Ontario, in Cobalt, or elsewhere, shall receive substantial aid from the Government." So that, so far as a Government can, they have given every encouragement to prospectors and to the finishing of the product in the Province of Ontario. No one pretends that the mining law is perfect in every particular. No man could make a law which would be perfect in every particular. Every step, however, so far as the present mining law is concerned, has been a decided step in advance of any previous mining law in the Province. I want to point out, as well, that the officials in connection with this law in that North country are politically honest. Never before was there such a great opportunity to go wrong as in the past few years. There were large matters in dispute. Men from all parts of the world were in this country, and anxious to obtain advantages from the officials of the present Government, so far as some sort of preference might be concerned, instead of a proper recording of mining claims; but, come down to this date, after three years of this Government, and not a single charge can to-day be laid against a single officer of the Conservative Government. It is a great deal to be said to the credit of this Government that their officials have been so honest in their conduct of the present law. The reason is, Sir, that every man recognizes to-day in the Province, no matter what department may be concerned, that the present Government is politically honest, and that honesty is demanded and expected from their officials in whatever department they are, and we get honesty.

ORE FROM GILLIES' LIMIT

I saw in the papers the other day that we are going to ship rich ore very soon from the Gillies limit. Would the Liberal Government have been shipping any rich ore from the Gillies limit? **I don't think there would have been any Gillies limit had the Liberals remained in power. That would have been handed over to the grafter.** Here were thousands of acres of rich mining land. Did the present Government decide to hand it out to the applicants of all kinds? No; they said, "These lands belong to the people of Ontario and we will operate their minerals for the benefit of the people of Ontario," and the result is that the people of Ontario will receive millions of dollars by reason of that decision, and all because we have an honest, capable head in charge of the mining of this Province, a man who knows the value of the mineral to the people of this Province. I don't know that I ought to take up any more time in regard to the discussion of minerals. It is a big, wide question. If you recognize that there is a great future for the minerals of this country, if you recognize that the Department in charge of minerals of this country has a great deal to do in this connection, then the outcome is assured. **The late Government practically had no confidence in the minerals of this country, and for years nothing was done by way of development.** Here we have a

responsible man in charge of this Department of the Government, one who will give proper attention to the value of the minerals. Under present conditions we are more likely to get capable men than we ever were under the Liberal Administration.

More Schools and Roads

What the Conservative Government is Doing to Open Up and Educate New Ontario

I might say a word as to the schools and roads in the North country. I find that, in 1904, the last year under the Liberal Administration, the roads in the districts in the North country received $175,620. That is the last year of the Liberal Administration—$175,000. In 1907 the Conservative Party spent in the northern districts of this Province alone the sum of $351,000, and then the hon. gentleman from the Sault says we have done nothing, "absolutely nothing," for the North country. We have spent $175,000 more in 1907 in opening up the settlers' roads than was spent by the Liberal Government in 1904. Is that nothing? Does an additional $175,000 mean nothing? I tell you, Sir, as you go through that country and pass along those roads and discuss with the people of that country what good roads mean to those districts, they will not tell you that the present Conservative Government has done nothing for the North country. The people living up there understand and realize the value of the road appropriations for that country. And that, Sir, is not all. The present Minister of Public Works decided that the people should be given an opportunity to co-operate in the road building. The result is that we have a Bill introduced in this House permitting any municipality in that country which spends a certain amount of money on its roads, to receive a grant amounting in some instances to $2 for every dollar spent by the municipality. The result is that every municipality will have the privilege of spending as much money as it can afford to spend, and to receive therefor an equal sum of money from the present Government in power. Prominent trunk roads leading from and to important points are being properly surveyed, and will be built, such as from Sudbury to Sault Ste. Marie, 179 miles.

DOUBLE AMOUNT FOR EDUCATION

As to schools, the Northern districts received in 1904 as follows: Rural public schools, $42,912. In 1907 what did the rural public schools of the North receive? $85,000, just for rural public schools alone. The hon. gentleman from Monck told us yesterday that we ought to have

more technical schools than we have. I think we ought. What has this Government done in the town represented by the hon. gentleman from the Sault? In that town alone the present Conservative Government granted $5,000 to the technical school. We don't find that the Liberal Government in 1904 gave one single dollar for technical education in the whole of that vast North country. Not one dollar. So that we have in 1907 $52,565 for the public school education of the districts of the North, more than they ever received under Liberal administration. I think, Sir, that amounts to something. I think the people of that North country realize the value of it and understand it. And I say, Sir, that the hon. gentleman from the Soo does not represent the sentiment of that North country when he says that we have done "absolutely nothing" for that country. Rural public schools formerly received $100 per school, whereas they now receive about $140 and upwards per school. We are giving grants for the building of schools, for technical schools, for normal and training schools, for the inspection of schools, and all along the line the North country is receiving attention from the present Department of Education such as the Liberal Government never gave during the whole history of their administration in this country. **School books are reduced as far as they have had an opportunity to touch them, about one-half in price.**

Alive to Country's Needs

Minister is in Touch with Settlers of all Classes and Ready to Supply their Wants

The hon. gentleman pretends to tell you that the Minister of Lands, Forests and Mines only conceived the idea of giving the settler the mineral and the timber during the last day or two. Why, Sir, from the very first day the Minister came into the Department he realized the value and the necessity of such a policy to the people of the Province as soon as the Government were in a position to put it into force. As far back as 1906 the hon. gentleman in charge of the Department of Lands, Forests and Mines commenced an examination and inspection of townships in that North country, examining in 1906 alone some twelve or fifteen townships with the very purpose in view of bringing them under the operation of this bill. (Applause.) Did we steal their clothes? It was a very funny time to steal them—some years before they had any. No, Sir, this Government took steps to inaugurate that policy a year and a half ago, and the result is that there are many townships ready to-day to be placed under the provisions of these bills. And there are many places all over that North country where licenses are yet in existence, in townships where there are many settlers, where it is impossible to do anything until such times as we can get these licenses terminated and these bills into force.

LAND READY FOR ALL

I want to say, Sir, before closing, that we never had a Minister of Lands, Forests and Mines in the Province of Ontario who pretended to keep himself in touch with the North country like the present Minister. (Applause.) Why, Sir, he has gone all over that country from one end to the other time and again, meeting the people in every department of life—the lumberman, the settler, the miner, the farmer—and has obtained at first-hand knowledge of all the requirements of that vast North country. He has had parts of it explored and is having sections of it surveyed and made ready to put in the market. We have got more land ready for the settler in that North country, where we believe the land to be good, than we could possibly fill up with settlement during the next four or five years. By reason of the foresight of the present Minister of Lands and Mines when the railway that the Government owns reaches the Grand Trunk Pacific, there will be tributary to the railway township after township to take care of all the settlers that we can place in them for years to come.

ALIVE TO ALL INTERESTS

The settlers know that the Minister is alive to the interests of the North country. They know it well. The Minister realizes all the difficulties there are in dealing with that vast domain. He has given his time as no Minister has ever given it to settle the disputes arising in that North country, and has practically given his health to ensure the proper working out of the regulations affecting his Department. As soon as it has been possible to bring in new regulations he has done so. At every session we have had something from the Minister of Lands, Forests and Mines which meant the proper adjustment and proper settlement of some of the many difficulties the Government found on coming into power. I need not say, Sir, that during the last three or four years of the Liberal Administration there was no serious attempt made to grapple or deal with matters affecting that North country. I think, perhaps, the present member for North York is responsible to some extent for that, for he kept the then Minister of Crown Lands so busy getting elected that he never had much time to devote to the North country. And when I say that the Liberal Government practically did nothing for Greater Ontario during the last three or four years of their administration, I do not mean to say that all the Liberals did nothing—not at all. There is no doubt some of the Liberals tried to grapple with the affairs of that North country. They tried to work out a policy of mining and a policy of timber and a policy in the interest of the settlers. But they did not understand; they did not have a man in charge of the Department who ever pretended to understand the Department as the present Minister of Lands

and Mines does. The result was just exactly what you might expect. **What they could not understand they could not grapple with. The outcome was confusion and mix-ups of all kinds that had to be straightened out when the Conservative Party came into power.**

PROTECTION FOR SETTLERS

They have straightened out the regulations, and the present Minister of Lands, Forests and Mines has made conditions satisfactory to the people of the North country. I have confidence in the present Government that it will go on and meet the conditions of that North country at once, as they arise. In a territory a thousand miles long by 250 to 300 miles wide, local conditions and difficulties are bound to arise which must be met and faced. But, I say this, that the Conservative Party can lay claim to have made the conditions more favorable to the miner and more favorable to the settler than ever before. The bills introduced during the last day or two go a long way towards settling these difficulties, and in the future **I believe the Government will see to it that wherever the settlers are willing to go in, after they have made the proper improvements that settlers are expected to make, they will be protected in the right to the minerals and to the timber.**

Reforestry Policy Next

Conservative Government is Watching Interests of the Public all Along the Line

And, Sir, I know this, that a reforestry policy will be instituted and carried out in just so far as reasonable and consistent with the conditions in that North country. The Minister of Agriculture during the last year has brought over from Germany hundreds of thousands of young pine trees to be planted out in the country, and we will have a Department of Forestry, and it will go on and take care of the proper development of our forests. Of course, no man can compare the forests of Canada with those of France and Germany, where the character of the country, the character of the timber and the extent of the country and the extent of the timber, as well as the nature of the market, are so greatly different. The conditions under which timber has been sold in the past are quite different to the conditions you have now got to meet, but the Government are alive to the situation; they are well informed as to these conditions, as to the conditions surrounding the settler, the lumberman and the miner, and every person in that North country is now in a much

better position than before the Conservative Government came into power. Northern Ontario affairs are in the hands of a good safe man, one giving his time as it never was given before. The confidence of that country is such that when the elections come on, Sir, we know what the people will say. You will see that the Conservative Party will sweep that North country from one end to the other. And let me repeat, Sir, that the hon. member from the Soo will not be here in this House, next session, making any such complaints as he made in this House to-day. He will be quietly resting at the Soo, looking down over the hundreds of miles that intervene between him and the Great Alexander—if the Great Alexander himself happens to be returned. (Applause.)

RAILWAY TAXATION

Now, Sir, I have not said a word about railway taxation. I should have told you that the Conservative Party placed a tax on the railways which gave to Northern Ontario $9,059 last year. We never got that before. It is absolutely new money, so far as the North country is concerned. Every municipality has had its share, and every municipality appreciates that share. Manitoulin Island alone has received over $1,000 from that railway tax. Not very much money, it is true; it sounds small in comparison with the splendid sums the present Minister of Lands, Forests and Mines has been able to earn and to snatch from some of the assets of the Province which were given away before this Government came into power. It sounds small, I say, it is true, but it shows how in every particular, all along the line, the Conservative Government is watching the interests of that North country.

I do not pretend to discuss old Ontario for a moment. I only pretend to answer the hon. member from the Soo when he says that we have done absolutely nothing for the North country, and in reply to him **I may say that the North country is satisfied, as it never was before; that the settlers are regulated and protected and governed as they never were before, and that we will get the votes of that North country as we never got them before.** (Applause.)

into
man,
f that
at the
sweep
t, Sir,
, next
o-day.
eds of
Great

hould
lways
t that
s con-
pality
$1,000
small
ands,
of the
nment
ow in
vatch-

pre-
it we
o him
efore;
never
ry as